

# SUGAR AND PHILIPPINE NEWS

## SUGAR FUTURE IS MUCH BECLOUDED

Government Control Increased  
Duty and Excise Duty Are  
All Under Discussion

Chairman Hoover of the national food control bureau has recommended that his bureau be made an independent branch of the government, disassociated from the department of agriculture, and that it be given supreme and absolute control over the distribution and marketing of the main food products, particularly of wheat and sugar. Presently the control will extend to the matter of price fixing.

This recommendation is now before the senate committee on agriculture and will probably emerge in the way of a report to the senate as soon as the Emergency Revenue Bill is out of the way and the vexed question of the Espionage Bill is settled one way or another.

The revenue proposals include one to add ten percent to all import duties. This will affect the cost of sugar to the consumer to the extent of the extra duties and will add the same amount to the price received for Hawaiian sugar provided the existing sales arrangements are to be continued.

Excise Tax on Sugar

According to Willett & Gray a plan to impose an internal revenue tax on sugar is in favor among many at Washington. That sugar journal reports:

"It appears more and more certain that the United States government will assess an excise or consumption tax on sugar. Although congress has not yet acted on the matter of the tax, it is generally accepted that the tax will be one cent a pound."

"It appears to us that to add a tax of one cent per pound, without reducing the duty on sugar imported from foreign countries, will make the price of refined sugar almost prohibitive."

As the refined market stands today some refiners are nominally quoting 8.50c to 8.50c, and to add a further duty of one cent to this price will make granulated sugar 9.50c to 9.50c wholesale, based on present nominal prices, and 11c to 12c per pound retail at refinery centers, and one to two cents per pound higher in the interior.

"The consumer will have to pay the excise tax as all refiners have given notice that any excise tax assessed by the government will be charged and invoiced to the buyer."

"A fair and equitable distribution of the duties and taxes would be to assess a duty on Cuban raws of one-half cent per pound, in place of present duty of about one cent per pound, and an excise tax of one cent per pound on all sugar consumed, in either raw or refined state."

The advantage of this plan is that it would tend to lower the cost of sugar but would increase the revenues. Such a combination of duties and excise would bring in a revenue of \$95,000,000 to \$100,000,000.

"The above plan is particularly applicable in view of the President's proclamation, appealing to the patriotism of the American people to keep the price of foodstuffs within reasonable limits and to prevent excessive profits, and such action by the government would be a move in this direction."

**WAR TAX PLAN ON CUBAN SUGAR**

President Menocal Suggests  
Revenue Raising By Internal  
Tax On Principal Exports

To meet the cost of the revolution, which appears to be far from over, according to the latest Associated Press dispatches, President Menocal of Cuba proposes an internal revenue tax on sugar. The effect of this will be, naturally, to increase the selling cost of the Cuban product in the United States.

A Havana correspondent of the Louisiana Planter, under date of April 21, tells of President Menocal's suggestion, as follows:

"In a recent message to congress, President Menocal states that Cuba is an 'hukewm ally,' but is ready to make sacrifices and all efforts possible in war against Germany. He asks for a bond issue of thirty millions of dollars, not only to cover the expenses of a state of war with Germany, but to pay indemnities caused by the revolutionary attempt; which will require no inconsiderable sum, if any current reports can be relied upon."

"The President proposes a long list of articles and actions upon which a revenue stamp can be placed to pay these bonds. He recommends that beginning from the first of November of this year a special tax of one cent for each arroba of sugar be imposed, this tax to be paid by sugar estates or mills. Also that a tax be placed upon societies and business firms which handle or deal with sugar and tobacco."

"The tax upon sugar alone, at the suggested rate, would bring into the treasury several millions of dollars yearly, even calculating the total output of sugar at a very conservative figure."

## "MARKING TIME" IN THE SUGAR MARKET

Waiting For Congress To Decide  
What Is To Be Done In  
Way of War Revenues

"Since our letter of the nineteenth instant this market has simply continued to mark time, and today sugar nearby or in prompt positions means a sacrifice," writes the New York correspondent of a local sugar firm under date of April 28.

"Refiners are well supplied with raw sugar and the storage conditions of this port seriously handicap sellers of these positions. The local demand for refined sugar has slackened very materially, and refiners prefer to wait the outcome of the power-law in congress—where quite a number of legislators wait Uncle Sam to go into this war with one hand tied behind his back—while uncertainty as to war taxation yet to be decided upon is causing hesitation, but indications now point to this taxation being placed squarely on the consumer instead of, as was at one time feared, entirely on the producer, which appears to be a more equitable arrangement."

**Options Tending Down**

"There are about 40,000 bags Cuban offering today for prompt shipment and about at 5 1/2c C. & F. for which refiners will indicate no better than 5c. The option market is tending downward, but the forward positions of May and June shipment are being very springily offered at 5 1/2c C. & F. and up. Some Porto Rico for prompt shipment are offered at 6 1/2c C. & F. without interesting buyers."

The revolutionary movement in Cuba is almost quelled, but not without a last kick, as it is reported that Chaparra and Manati plantations have within the past two weeks lost 100,000 tons of cane by incendiary fires. Reports, too, from sections where there has been no political disturbance indicate that estimates of last fall were much too high. The British commission is believed to have continued its purchases on a 4.80c f.o.b. basis almost daily since the date of our last report, but this is the only sustaining feature of the market visible at the moment.

Cuban figures (in tons) for six ports to the 21st instant follow:

	May	June
Receipts	89,500	85,614
Exports	65,000	65,982
Stock	541,000	533,755
Exports north of Har-		
ter	40,000	40,519
Exports to New Orleans		
& Co.	4,000	4,140
Exports to Europe	21,000	21,323
Exports from outports		
Exports U. S. A.	3,534	
Exports Europe	21,029	

The weather in Cuba has been rather unfavorable for harvesting, but the 1918 crop has benefited by heavy rains coming a little out of season.

Refined sugar, as already indicated, has met with a slackening demand, but outside of the American who quote 7.50c basis and take only orders for special assortments, and Howell, who take an occasional order at 8c basis, all the other refiners have practically withdrawn with orders in hand to keep them busy for weeks to come.

Referring to hoarding of sugar by small consumers President Babst of the American Sugar Refining Company, in an interview furnished the press this week, protests strongly against this practice. He says refiners can easily supply all wants of the United States and have a million tons for export, but hoarding of supplies by housewives and others must stop, and only immediate requirements purchased, otherwise the situation will become acute.

We understand that so far as this vicinity is concerned the tremendous demand for refined sugar of the past few weeks has subsided, but that Maryland, Pennsylvania and other nearby States have been so far nearly insatiable in their requests, so much so that there are some orders in the market for 100 barrel lots at any price in reason.

**NEW TRACTOR PLOW DEVELOPED IN FRANCE**

The extreme shortage of agricultural labor in Europe has stimulated the invention of new labor-saving devices. Among these a new tractor-drawn plow which cuts a single furrow seven to eight feet in width is described in recent number of a French agricultural journal.

The four cylinder tractor weighs about seven tons and is operated at a speed of three miles per hour. Two tons of the weight of the tractor is on the front wheels. The plow cut a single furrow six inches deep and ninety inches wide at the rate of two-thirds of an acre per hour with a fuel consumption of twenty-three pounds per hour; and a furrow seven inches deep, turning six-tenths' acre per hour, at a fuel consumption of twenty-nine pounds per hour.

No data were mentioned as to the quality of the work done. The trials were in a light soil level and free of rock. Presumably a field plowed in this manner would be a veritable dust-bowl requiring no further treatment except tilling to make it ready for seedling.

## World's Sugar Crops Estimate

The latest estimate of the world's sugar crops, as compiled by Willett & Gray, shows an increase for the current year over last year of practically two hundred thousand tons, but this is a decrease from the 1914-15 crop of nearly two million tons. The figures are:

	Harvesting Period	1916-17	1915-16	1914-15
United States—Louisiana	Oct.-Jan.	273,000	122,768	216,696
Texas	Oct.-Jan.	6,250	1,000	3,500
Porto Rico	Jan.-June	430,145	431,337	308,178
Hawaiian Islands	Nov.-July	575,000	529,895	577,180
West Indies—St. Croix	Jan.-June	19,000	14,700	4,500
Cuba, crop	Dec.-June	3,000,000	3,007,915	2,592,967
British West Indies—Trinidad	Jan.-June	65,000	64,321	58,822
Barbados, exports	Jan.-June	65,000	65,000	32,578
Jamaica, exports	Jan.-June	15,000	15,143	15,063
Other British West Indies	Jan.-June	30,000	30,000	24,000
French West Indies—Martinique	Jan.-July	40,000	39,225	38,881
Guadeloupe	Jan.-July	40,000	39,111	39,517
San Domingo, exports	Jan.-June	150,000	126,038	168,367
Mexico, crop	Dec.-June	50,000	65,000	110,000
Central America	Jan.-June	35,000	35,000	36,275
South America—Demerara	Oct.-Dec. & May-June	120,000	116,324	113,632
Surinam	Oct.-Jan.	15,000	13,000	12,000
Venezuela	Oct.-Dec.	30,000	7,000	5,000
Ecuador	Oct.-Feb.	250,000	7,567	7,116
Peru	Oct.-Feb.	220,000	260,841	268,441
Argentina	June-Oct.	100,000	152,301	335,533
Brazil	Oct.-Feb.	225,000	194,000	240,000
Total in America		5,534,395	5,322,225	5,140,343

British India—Crop (consumed locally)	Dec.-May	2,624,000	2,634,000	2,460,573
Java, exports	May-Nov.	1,596,174	1,198,567	1,303,045
Formosa and Japan crops	Nov.-June	436,024	405,227	262,000
Philippine Islands, exports	Nov.-June	170,000	332,158	240,000
Total in Asia		4,826,200	4,569,952	4,265,618

Australia	June-Nov.	175,000	159,681	246,408
Fiji Islands, exports	June-Nov.	100,000	90,000	102,000
Total in Australia and Polynesia		275,000	249,681	348,408

Egypt, crop (consumed locally)	Jan.-June	110,000	100,000	75,738
Mauritius, crop	Aug.-Jan.	208,000	215,528	277,164
Reunion, exports	Aug.-Jan.	45,000	45,000	39,267
Natal, crop	May-Jet.	135,000	112,000	91,619
Mozambique, crop	May-Jet.	65,000	50,000	40,000
Total in Africa		543,000	522,528	523,788

Europe—Spain	Dec.-June	6,000	6,880	7,376
Total cane sugar crops		11,176,595	10,670,745	10,288,533
Exports—Beet sugar crops	Sep.-Jan.	4,814,000	5,077,780	7,583,215
United States—Beet sugar crop	July-Jan.	734,577	779,796	646,257
Canada—Beet sugar crop	Oct.-Dec.	12,500	17,041	13,979
Grand total Cane and Beet sugar		16,737,672	16,545,902	18,531,984
Estimated increase in the world's production		191,770		

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The production of nitrolin has been considerably increased in Germany and even to such an extent, that the farmers may reckon to receive 50 per cent of the necessary quantities for the spring and fall dressings. The available supply of phosphates is very small, but no figures are being given as to the extent of the shortage. The beet price in Austria-Hungary has been raised from 4 to 6 kronen per 100 kilos and that of sugar from 41.50 to 55.50 likewise for 100 kilos. This considerable increase will be a powerful stimulant to increase the beet sowings in that country, and, accordingly, a considerable extension is expected.

**DUTCH EXPORTS STOPPED BY SUBS**

Correspondent Indignant At the  
Destruction of Neutral  
Sugar Bottoms

We do not know if our last letter has come through or if it has gone down to the bottom of the sea in the infamous attack of a German submarine on seven Dutch ships, which, after negotiations with the German naval authorities went out together unarmed and unencumbered, confident in the given word, only to be mercilessly sunk and destroyed together with their precious cargoes, writes Dr. H. C. Prinsen Geerlings to the Louisiana Planter, under date of February 28, from Amsterdam. We have no words for such deeds, and the worst is that we are quite sure that they may happen again, as no security being given for their prevention. It may be that Britain rules the waves, but here, in these parts, this does not appear and it seems as if quite a rival power is rising just now and, if it is not on the waves it is only a few feet under, but the result is the same.

The exportation of Dutch sugar which was reported last week, has not come off, as our whole overseas trade is stopped and will not be resumed in the near future.

The Dutch sugar production has amounted to 332,521 tons till the end of January, and on the 15th of February, 136,875 tons were still lying in the bonded warehouses. This is a good quantity, but it is necessary to keep much sugar in the country, as certainly the area to be planted with beets for 1917 will undergo a strong reduction. Rumors mention a decrease of thirty per cent, because much more land will be planted with breadstuffs, in order to make up for the deficit. The cold spell of mid-January to mid-February has frozen a great area of the winter wheat, so that much of that land is to be sown again and, as this is not sufficient, a great portion of the beet land will have to come to the rescue.

**German Beet Reports**

The German secretary of agriculture has communicated, that in the years 1909 to 1913 on an average 504,000 hectares have been planted with beets in Germany, the area in 1914 was 547,000, in 1915 564,000 and in 1916 604,000 hectares. That for 1917 is estimated at only 330,535 hectares, which is derived from the results of an inquiry held among the sugar factories, from which resulted this figure as the one which in the best case might be expected. It is very probable, the quantity will be smaller still, but, on the other hand, the Secretary contemplates the raising of the beet price by 0.50 Mark per 50 kilos to 2.50 Mark, and the reduction of the price of other roots, in order to induce farmers to

plant more sugar beet and less turnips, kohlrabi and fodder beets. We shall know rather soon what effect such measures will have had, but at any rate, the German sugar production will be a rather short one in 1917-18.

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**French Production**

The French sugar production till ultimo December has amounted to 189,750 tons, against 151,000 tons at the same date of 1915. This is somewhat better, but still insufficient for the wants. Sugar is very scarce in France and the consumption is limited to 750 grammes per month and per capita. The total consumption has undergone a large decrease which shows itself in the yield of the revenue on sugar, which in 1915 amounted to 205 million francs, while, notwithstanding an increase in the duty at the end of the year 1916 the revenue on sugar in 1916 only supplied 173 million francs.

The medical authorities in France oppose themselves earnestly against the use of saccharine as a substitute for the sugar which falls; they declare the use of saccharine so bad for the public health that they prefer not to sweeten the meats and drinks altogether to the use of the artificial sweetener.

The use of sugar for tarts and in general for candies has been prohibited in Italy out of great scarcity of the article in that country too.

Belgium produced till ultimo December 1916, 130,235 tons of sugar, against 132,000 tons till the same date of 1915. The stocks are at the end of the year 1916, 116,935, for 1915, 89,213 and 1914, 120,695 tons.

**Duty Raised**

The sugar duty has been raised from twenty to forty francs per 100 kilos, while, in addition, another duty of no less than 125 francs per 100 kilos has been laid on such sugar, which is used for the preparation of chocolate, honey-suckles, liquors, fruit syrup, lemonade and candy. Beet juice syrup is taxed with 10 francs per 100 kilos, while sugar used in the manufacture of condensed milk, canned vegetables, marmalades, jams and for the feeding of bees is taxed with twenty francs, whereas this used to be quite free.

Contrary to the facts observed in most European countries, the area to be sown with beets in Sweden, will be extended. The price of beets and of sugar will be increased, while the duty on sugar is to be diminished, so that the farmers and the manufacturers receive more and the public continues to pay the same amount for their sugar.

It was reported in the year 1916, before, or pretty well the same

## WOOD-STAVE PIPE BETTER THAN METAL

Exhaustive Experiments Lead To  
Some Conclusions of Benefit  
To Island Planters

"Wood-stave pipe will carry about fifteen per cent more water than a ten-year old cast-iron pipe, or than a new riveted pipe, and about twenty-five per cent more than a cast-iron pipe twenty years old or a riveted pipe ten years old."

This is one of the findings made by the division of irrigation investigations of the department of agriculture at Washington, after sixty-four experiments on the flow of water in sixteen different wood-stave pipes. These pipes ranged in diameter from eight inches to 13.5 feet.

In the experiments thirteen of the pipes ranged from eight inches to four feet in diameter; one was 6.5 feet; one twelve feet; and, one 13.5 feet in diameter. Six pipes were of the machine-headed type put together in lengths, and ten more were of the continuous-stave type. Mean velocities ranged from less than one foot to more than eight feet per second.

F. C. Seobey, the author of the bulletin, makes an analysis of 286 experiments. As a result he discards the Kutter formula as given in the standard engineering hand-books, and develops a new formula which, he states, gives a variant of only one per cent in the mean capacity of all wood pipes.

**General Conclusions**

General conclusions regarding the capacity of wood-stave pipes are drawn as follows: "A very conservative factor of safety should be used where a guaranteed capacity is to be obtained."

"The data now existing do not show that the capacity of wood-stave pipe either increases or decreases with age. This statement does not consider sedimentation, a purely mechanical process. If silted waters are to be conveyed, the pipe should be designed for a working velocity of from five to ten feet per second. If sand is present in the water, the design should be for a velocity of about five feet per second, which will be high enough to carry out a large part of the sand and at the same time not so high as to seriously erode the pipes."

"The better method," Seobey states, "is to remove the sand by sumps or other means. Air should be removed from the intake end of every pipe line, especially when the capacity load is approached."

These observations on the flow of water in wood-stave pipes are of particular interest in Hawaii, now that iron and steel pipes have risen to abnormal values. Apparently, if a wood-stave pipe is properly laid, it has certain engineering values not previously recognized. That a wooden pipe will carry more water than an iron pipe of equal diameter is one of the disputed points now authoritatively decided.

**HOARDING SUGAR IS CUTTING DOWN EXPORTS**

NEW YORK, April 25.—Hoarding of sugar by American consumers has led to suspension of export business to meet an abnormal demand for the staple, Earl D. Babst, president of the American Sugar Refining Company, said today in a statement approving the plan suggested by Herbert C. Hoover, national food commissioner, for cooperation between the United States and the Entente in handling food problems.

Pointing out what he declared was a situation in which American refiners have been bidding not only against one another for raw material, and against foreign refiners, but also against the entire governmental commissions, Mr. Babst asserted that Mr. Hoover's cooperative proposal "should be considered as of much if not more value to America than to our Allies."

"It would help to take the fever out of the situation," he added. "It would be a bulwark against sensational reports leading to consumer panics, such as the sugar industry is struggling with today in many parts of the country. There is consumer hoarding of sugar which is tending unnecessarily to raise prices and especially to embarrass the manufacturing and preserving industries of the country. This scramble has been going on for weeks in spite of the assurance that there are ample supplies for normal consumption and for the saving of the fruit crop."

The British sugar importations during the month of January have been 20,345 tons of raw and 19,618 tons of white sugar, while in the same month of 1916 these quantities were respectively 47,016 and 40,205 tons. Both the raw and the white sugar came almost exclusively from Java, only 5326 tons from Brazil and this is the more remarkable as Java, owing to its bad harvest, did not appear at all in the English sugar statistics of January, 1916.

The consumption amounted to 92,065 tons in January 1917, against quantities of 110,221 and 131,610 tons in the corresponding month of both 1916 and 1915.

## BRITISH SUPPLY OF SUGAR SCANT

Illegal To Possess More Than  
Two Weeks' Supply At a  
Time, Says New Order

LONDON, April 6.—Lord Devonport has discussed the sugar question with a large number of members at the house of commons and has announced that the following drastic changes would be made:

1. The food controller will issue an order at once making it an offense, punishable by imprisonment, for any retailer to sell more than a fortnight's supply to any one customer.

It will likewise be made a penal offense for any consumer to possess more than a fortnight's supply at any time.

3. The police are to have the right of entry and inspection in suspected cases.

4. An order is issued making it an offense to insist upon the purchase of other goods as a condition of the sale of sugar. This order is to apply to other articles of food besides sugar.

Lord Devonport dealt solely with the sugar question in his speech. He emphasized that the country was passing through a period of abnormal scarcity. The margin of sugar had been dangerously reduced as the department had not been getting the amount of shipping necessary to keep up the supply.

Lord Devonport, however, was able to state that he had now made such arrangements with the shipping controller as would secure a better supply in future.

**Leak Along the Line**

At the same time, the food controller gave a warning that the period of great scarcity would continue until the end of April. A proportion of the sugar supply, Lord Devonport continued, had been issued for domestic consumption, but he was convinced from the complaints that had reached him that all of it was not reaching the consumer. In fact, there was a leakage somewhere and it was possible that a number of retailers were selling sugar for other than domestic use—perhaps in small quantities, to mineral water and jam manufacturers. He had accordingly decided to appoint at once a committee, including two members of the house of commons, to report within the next three weeks whether such a leakage existed and what were the best methods of stopping it.

Finally, Lord Devonport pointed out that if the individual consumer of sugar was not rationed compulsorily, the output was. The weekly output was three-quarters of a pound per head of the population. He might have to reduce that to one-half a pound per head, but he felt sure that people would not grumble if they were able to secure their full ration.

**GUARD IS WARNED CALL COMING SOON**

First definite word concerning the intentions of Washington as to the local units of the national guard was received yesterday in the form of a circular letter to the national guard from the war department. This circular, anonymous, Brig.-Gen. Samuel I. Johnson, adjutant general, instructs the guards to prepare for mobilization at a near date and to make such preparations as will effect mobilization at the proper time in an orderly and efficient manner.

"This circular was extremely welcome," stated the adjutant-general, yesterday, "inasmuch as it is the first definite word we have received. We have had lots of rumors, and there has been lots of guessing but none of it helped show us where we were at. This, at least is some assurance that we will be used."

The circular urges all guard officers to acquaint themselves with mobilization requirements and be prepared to start the organization moving smoothly when the call comes.

**PUNCHBOWL OWNERS TO GET MONEY BACK**

The fifth measure since the legislature adjourned Wednesday night of last week was signed yesterday by the Governor, this being S. B. 110, introduced by Senator Pacheco, which becomes Act 41 of the Session Laws of 1917.

The new law is entitled: "An Act appropriating the sum of \$10,022.29 for the relief of property owners in the Anwaileimu Tract, Honolulu."

It provides for the reimbursing of "such of the property owners as have paid the amount of assessments made by the board of supervisors of the City and County of Honolulu for construction of roads in said tract."

Under the terms of the new law the Anwaileimu owners, who will be reimbursed for the amount paid on account of frontage improvement, will also be relieved from the necessity of paying any other or further assessments.

**CHINESE TO GO INTO SUGAR BEET RAISING**